



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

JUL 21 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Terms of Reference – Defense Science Board Task Force on Strategic Options

Several countries aspire to greater regional power, threatening to employ military force to prey on their neighbors. Anticipating that the United States might seek to deter or thwart their aggression due to allies or treaty commitments, these emerging regional powers have invested over the last decade to discourage the United States from intervening. These investments are aimed at raising the cost of U.S. intervention to unacceptable levels – cost in terms of loss of life of military personnel and loss of high value assets.

The objective of the Task Force on Strategic Options is to identify effective weapon system concepts and operational concepts to rebalance cost and benefit in order to regain, in a sustained manner, the operational dominance of the U.S. Armed Forces at the beginning of this century. The concepts may devolve from novel technology, improvements in training and doctrine, or exploitation of inherent asymmetric vulnerabilities of adversaries. The goal is to deter local conflict involving allies or treaty partners, and to prevail at the lowest 'cost' should deterrence fail.

Areas of consideration may include advanced undersea assets and operational concepts, new uses of space assets, development of new countermeasures for electronic warfare, employment of cyber weapons, and other areas the Task Force deems appropriate. Additional considerations should include the adversary's use of countermeasures to undermine U.S. dominance in the air, space, sea and cyber domains.

I will sponsor the study, and Dr. Craig Fields and Dr. Eric Evans will serve as Co-chairmen of the study. Mr. David Jakubek will serve as Executive Secretary. Lt Col Michael Harvey, USAF, will serve as the Defense Science Board Secretariat Representative.

The study will operate in accordance with the provisions of P.L. 92-463, the "Federal Advisory Committee Act," and DoD Directive 5105.04, the "DoD Federal Advisory Committee Management Program." It is not anticipated that this study will need to go into any "particular matters" within the meaning of title 18, U.S.C., section 208, nor will it cause any member to be placed in the position of action as a procurement official.



Frank Kendall